

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KEENAN DARNELL ANDERSON

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Keenan Darnell Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a father, a life partner to his fiancée, a teacher, and a proud Angeleno. Mr. Anderson was taken from us earlier this year by the brutality and violence of the LAPD. Today, we stand here to honor Mr. Anderson's life, legacy, and contributions to his family and his city.

Mr. Anderson grew up in Los Angeles and from a young age, demonstrated his commitment to his family across Southern California. He was known as the "life of the party," always livening up family cookouts and picnics. Mr. Anderson was a linchpin of his close-knit family. From the time that he was young, Mr. Anderson knew he wanted to dedicate his life to helping others. In college, he focused this dedication on a career in law enforcement, double majoring in criminal justice and sociology. Later, he translated this desire to do good for the world into educating, earning a graduate degree in education.

Mr. Anderson's passion for teaching led him to dedicate his career to educating his community's youth. As a teacher, he taught English to juniors and seniors in high school and even chaired the English department. Mr. Anderson was also invested in the creativity of his students, teaching drama classes that served as an introduction to the arts to many Angeleno youth. He was also a charismatic member of his church where he led family game nights and injected his infectious energy and enthusiasm.

At the time of his untimely death, Mr. Anderson had just moved to Washington, D.C. to teach at Digital Pioneers Academy. Washington D.C. will forever miss out on the contributions, energy, and inspiration he could have brought to the young people here.

Washington, D.C. students are not the only ones who will forever miss Mr. Anderson. He is survived by his fiancée, Domonique, to whom he was deeply devoted, and his 5 year-old son, Syncere. Mr. Anderson doted on his son, proud to be a father and proud to have his son by his side. Mr. Anderson's wrongful murder robbed Syncere of years with his father. Today, February 7, 2023, Domonique will join me as my guest at the State of the Union, where we will continue to highlight the unjust and tragic death of this doting and dedicated father, partner, friend, educator, and member of my community.

Today, we should be celebrating Mr. Anderson's great achievements as a father and a teacher, and the strength and resilience he imbued in his communities. Instead, we must confront the tragedy of his murder at the hands of the LAPD.

Mr. Speaker, this commemoration of the life of Keenan Anderson, a life gone too soon,

adds yet another name to America's tainted legacy of violence against the Black community at the hands of individuals charged with protecting and serving. I honor the memory of Mr. Anderson and further commit to working to eliminate the inhumane violence and brutality that took him from us too soon.

RECOGNIZING BOB AND TERRY WIDMER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob and Terry Widmer for receiving the honor of the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award. Terry has spent her life in North Texas. She grew up in Denton and has a nursing career that spans 20 years. In 2014, Terry oversaw the housing component of the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team. Two years later, Terry became the charter appointee for the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team. She has been a long-time advocate for the homeless community in North Texas and has made a profound impact on improving the livelihoods of those citizens that have been affected. Both she and her husband, Bob, have been active members of the Denton Community for decades and they helped form vital nonprofits in Denton County such as The Daily Bread, which serves food to individuals in need. They have served on numerous boards of nonprofits. Bob is a board-certified tax attorney and currently serves as a professor at the University of North Texas. In 2016, he started the North Texas Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. This clinic allowed local graduate students to assist lower-income members of the community with specialized and qualified tax assistance. This provided a wonderful opportunity to members of the community and helped graduate students gain experience before applying to bigger employers. Bob has not only been a valuable part of educating the younger generation in North Texas, but he has been involved in serving local Veterans. Terry referred Veteran clients to Bob's clinic from the Veteran Community Navigator pilot program. When Bob learned from Terry that clients of the VCN program were working in crowded, unsuitable offices, he contacted the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and mobilized a community effort with donations and volunteers to renovate office space into what is now known as the Denton County Veteran Center. This center provides critical and quality care to all Veterans who are in need. These actions are remarkable, yet Bob did not stop there. He went on to mobilize the community to help the United Way of Denton County create the Veterans Mental Health Annex, which expands access to mental health services for veterans. These incredible actions have not gone unnoticed. In November of 2022, they were recog-

nized by the Board Members of the United Way of Denton for their efforts and impact on helping those affected by homelessness and mental health challenges in their community, especially veterans. The Widmer's have invested their time and talent into serving their community, I am honored to recognize Bob and Terry's achievements today and I am humbled to share a home in North Texas with this couple of such high character. Bob and Terry's family, their community, their state, and their nation are made better by their selfless contributions and dedication to others. I thank Bob and Terry Widmer for their excellent work, and also thank the United Way of Denton County Board of Directors for recognizing them with the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award of 2023.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Southern Preparatory Academy.

The academy was founded by Dr. Lyman Ward in 1898 as a non-profit, non-denominational, coeducational institution for rural youth. Its initial purpose was to provide a secondary education for those who wanted to learn and to work hard.

In 1901, a charter was granted by the State of Alabama and the school was incorporated with the name "The Southern Industrial Institute, Inc." After Dr. Ward passed away, the military department was added and the school became "Lyman Ward Military Academy" in 1948. The school became an all-boys military school.

Today, much of the original philosophy remains, but precedence is given to the development of Christian ideals. The high standards set have helped students gain acceptance into outstanding universities across the country.

In 2019, the school was rebranded to Southern Preparatory Academy—a name that represents the values, but brings the Academy into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for Southern Preparatory Academy and wishing them a happy 125th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 107.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDWARD PANGELINAN**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, February 7, 2023*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Edward De Leon Guerrero Pangelinan, a founding father of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, who passed away on February 3.

Mr. Pangelinan was the very first Chamorro from the Northern Marianas to graduate from law school and, so, became the natural leader of our islands in seeking to end the post-World War II United Nations Trusteeship and to become part of the United States. As Chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, Mr. Pangelinan with his fellow Commissioners successfully negotiated the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, which was approved by plebiscite in 1975 and codified in federal law the following year.

His work as reflected in the Covenant agreement then led to United States citizenship for the people of the Marianas during the Administration of President Ronald Reagan and, ultimately, to their representation here in the United States Congress.

Edward Pangelinan's work on behalf of the Marianas did not end with the Covenant. In 1978, he was elected to be our first Resident Representative to the United States, a position that advocated for and foreshadowed representation in Congress. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed Mr. Pangelinan to the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws, where he helped identify areas of the law that should be amended in light of the inclusion of the Marianas into the United States. Later he served as legal counsel and special advisor to Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta and then as advisor to Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio before retiring from public service in 2009.

Throughout his life, Edward Pangelinan worked tirelessly to bring respect and equity to the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian communities of the Marianas. In addition to the successes he achieved for his people, Mr. Pangelinan will also be remembered for his unfalteringly optimistic approach to public service. No matter how long the days, or difficult the fights, Mr. Pangelinan by his example will always remind us that change—slow or even impossible though it may seem—can and will happen through perseverance.

Few people use their lives to make as enduring and beneficial an impact on the lives of others as did the Honorable Edward De Leon Guerrero Pangelinan. Please join me in recognizing Mr. Pangelinan's outstanding contributions to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands as we honor his memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY
BOSWORTH**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Bosworth in celebration of his extraordinary life and longstanding community involvement.

Born in Geyserville, California in 1938, Mr. Bosworth graduated from Geyserville High School in 1956. He enlisted in the United States Army and was trained in electronics. Following his service in the Army, Mr. Bosworth moved back to Geyserville, married his wife, Karen Bosworth, and opened a hardware store.

When his father passed away in the 1980s, Mr. Bosworth merged his hardware store with his parents' historic Bosworth and Son store, which was opened in 1911. Over the years, the store served many purposes and has become a local institution. Currently it provides hats, apparel and gifts, and appropriately, it houses the Geyserville Historical Society Museum.

Like the store and his family, Harry Bosworth became a fixture in the community, and Sonoma County has benefited greatly from his extensive community involvement. Mr. Bosworth, in fact, was often referred to as the "unofficial mayor" of Geyserville. He served on the Geyserville School Board, the Geyserville Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, the Odd Fellows, the Geyserville Community Foundation, the Geyserville Historical Society, and the board of the Geyserville Fire Protection District (now the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District).

Mr. Bosworth also served as President of Friends of Lake Sonoma from 2013 through 2015, where his extensive community relationships and passion for local advocacy were instrumental in the completion of an on-site fish weir. He is known locally by his friends and peers for his endless energy and passion for the community. He is survived by his wife, Karen, brother, Charles Beers, his 2 daughters, Rachel and Gretchen, and granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bosworth's enduring and positive impact throughout Sonoma County and decades of public service are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his legacy and express our deep condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

RECOGNIZING 115 YEARS OF THE
TIMES LEADER**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor The Times Leader, a 7 day newspaper covering Northeastern Pennsylvania, on its 115th anniversary. The flagship of the Times Leader Media group, it is a collection of print and digital mediums covering the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre metropolitan area.

In 1907, Fred C. Kirkendall of The Wilkes-Barre Times and Colonel Ernest G. Smith of The Times Leader combined their newspapers. This new paper operated as The Times Leader until a major strike in 1939 forced the paper to merge with the Wilkes-Barre Record and Evening News. Together, these 3 papers formed The Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company. Col. Smith, John A. Hourigan, Dr. Frederick Johnson and Harrison Smith all contributed to running the successful news company, producing 2 highly read, competing papers: the morning-circulated Wilkes-Barre Record and The Times Leader Evening News.

In 1972, as the region was recovering from the effects of the Agnes Flood, the newspapers faced yet another merger, forming a new publication under the name The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader/The Evening News/Wilkes-Barre Record. This long and cumbersome name only lasted until 1978 when Capital Cities Corporation purchased the paper, and once again, it was to be called The Times Leader.

The late 20th century saw significant growth and changes for The Times Leader. In 1987, they began circulating a highly successful Sunday edition, and in 1989, they acquired Greater Pittston's Sunday Dispatch. In 1997, the paper purchased a state-of-the-art printing press that offered the latest printing technologies. By the end of 2000, the Times Leader had also acquired The Dallas Post and The Abington Journal.

Today, The Times Leader, under the direction of publisher Kerry Miscavage and executive editor Joe Soprano, continues to uphold its impressive reputation as an award-winning source of local and regional news. Offering essential news coverage and thoughtful, incisive reporting, the paper has a robust and loyal readership in the region. I wish the entire team at The Times Leader all the best as they celebrate 115 years of outstanding journalism.

CELEBRATING GEORGE
HEKOWCZYK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. KEN BUCK**OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of heroic American veteran, George Hekowczyk. On February 18th, Mr. Hekowczyk will turn 100 years old. It is my distinct privilege to wish him a happy 100th birthday, especially because it is rare that I find someone older than myself.

Mr. Hekowczyk served in the United States Navy as a Boatswain's Mate Second Class from 1942 through 1946. During his tenure, he served as a deep-sea diver. Mr. Hekowczyk would regularly disable torpedoes on the ocean floor that had failed to detonate. Mr. Hekowczyk's courageous service warrants tremendous praise and recognition; the entire Nation is indebted to him and his generation's commitment to freedom over tyranny.

Our Nation's men and women in uniform are America's greatest assets, and Mr. Hekowczyk's value to this Nation is priceless. That's why, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to recognize the

honor, courage, and sacrifice of Boatswain's Mate Second Class George Hekowczyk. I wish him the happiest of birthdays and thank him for his dedication and Service to this Nation.

**HONORING JESSICA SHAPIRO FOR
EXEMPLARY WORK FOR THE
HOUSE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLA-
TIVE COUNSEL**

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the Honorable FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, to include in the RECORD a letter to recognize and express our sincere appreciation for Ms. Jessica Shapiro's nearly two decades of exemplary work for the House Office of the Legislative Counsel.

FEBRUARY 7, 2023.

JESSICA SHAPIRO,
Senior Counsel, House Office of the Legislative
Counsel, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. SHAPIRO: Over the last two decades, you have played a vital role drafting the words of thousands of health policies—many of which have become transformative laws—and you have done so with integrity, professionalism, and meticulousness.

When you began your career in the U.S. House of Representatives, America still had gaping holes in its health insurance system. The words you drafted as part of the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10), and No Surprises Act (P.L. 116-260)—just to name a few—have become the cornerstone for a more equitable health system that has guaranteed access to health services and provided a more robust safety net for millions of Americans. Most recently, the work you did on Medicare drug pricing reform, originally part of the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, formed a key component or President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169). Your equanimity, vast knowledge of the intricacies of the Social Security Act (P.L. 74-271), and methodical approach to drafting policy were vital to the success of that process, which required hundreds of hours of drafting, problem-solving, and redrafting. Nearly 70 million Americans will benefit from your unwavering commitment to this work.

Few realize the number of hours of refinement, modification, and revision that go into making a law operational, particularly in the health space. And for every high-profile public law, there are also countless bills and amendments that do not succeed. All of this work requires sacrifices—time away from family and friends as a result of weekend and after-hour intrusions—that often go unacknowledged.

The U.S. health system is in a better place today because of the sacrifices you made during your time at the House Office of the Legislative Counsel, and we thank you and your family for your dedication. Your commitment to public service will live on for decades in the words you have written in the U.S. Code.

Sincerely,

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES "CHUCK" POLAND, JR.**

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr., who sadly passed away on January 29, 2013, at the age of 66 while performing a heroic act while driving his school bus in Midland City, Alabama.

On January 29, 2013, Charles selflessly defended the lives of the young children on board of his Dale County school bus. What began as a normal winter day in southeastern Alabama for Charles' afternoon route, quickly turned into a senseless attack resulting in the hostage situation and release of a then 5-year-old boy.

Mr. Poland was born July 16, 1946, in Payette, Idaho. As a resident of Newton, Alabama, his courage touched and influenced the lives of many, not only in Alabama's Second Congressional District, but across our great Nation. He was a selfless man whose life exemplified the Lord he served and made the ultimate sacrifice by saving the lives of the children he loved. On the 10th anniversary of his passing, may his sacrifice be remembered as a brave hero who did not flinch in the face of adversity.

In 2013, the Charles "Chuck" Poland, Jr. Act was passed and signed into law. This important law gives appropriate consequences to unauthorized persons who trespass on an Alabama school bus and commit actions that compromise the safety of our Alabama students. Not only is his devotion and strength to our Nation remembered with his incredible service. He is known by protecting the lives of all Alabama students.

Charles dedicated his life to bringing joy to his friends, family, and everybody else around him. He was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary Janice Poland, 2 children, Lydia and Aaron, and extended members of family.

As we remember Charles, may we remember his kindness and selflessness. As he laid down his life to protect the children, may we recognize his sacrifice on the 10th anniversary and every moment forward.

Charles Poland was a joyous and loved resident of Alabama's Second Congressional District that has left lifelong impressions on many. He is deeply missed, but faithfully remembered by many friends, family members, and all those he made smile.

**COMMEMORATING CONGENITAL
HEART DISEASE AWARENESS
WEEK**

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Hayden West, and his family. Hayden was prenatally diagnosed with congenital heart disease, which is the most prevalent birth defect in the United States, affecting one in every 100 births. In

honor of Hayden and the more than 40,000 babies born each year with congenital heart disease, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize February 7 through 14 as Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

Congenital heart disease, sometimes called congenital heart defects, broadly refers to problems with the heart's structure that are present from birth. Current estimates suggest that more than 1 million children and 1.4 million adults in the United States are living with congenital heart disease. There is no known cure for congenital heart disease, as it is a lifelong disease that requires ongoing specialized care, and can impact individuals in a variety of ways, including the development of additional health conditions, such as arrhythmia, pulmonary hypertension, and heart failure. Thanks to the advancement of science and medicine, 85 percent of individuals born with congenital heart disease now live past the age of 18.

It is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and all those in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart disease in the prenatal term. Continued medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart disease. Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week provides the opportunity for patients and families affected by congenital heart disease to share their experiences and knowledge so that the general public may be aware of how this defect affects our lives.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank the West family for bringing awareness to this condition and hope my fellow Americans will join me in recognizing Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week.

**CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF MATIN GORJI**

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Iranian government to immediately release Matin Gorji. On January 8, 2023, Iranian authorities searched Mr. Gorji's home and arrested him simply because he is a member of the Baha'i faith. According to Mr. Gorji's family, the authorities who searched his home physically abused him and, upon arrest, refused to allow him to take his medication for his liver condition with him. His mother was told he faces a sentence of at least 2 years, yet the specific nature of his charges is unknown.

Sadly, Mr. Gorji is just one of many members of the Baha'i community subjected to harsh persecution in Iran. Since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, thousands more have been arrested and interrogated, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs. In its most recent report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported that Iran continues to persecute people of the Baha'i faith, closing their businesses, denying them access to an education, demolishing their

homes without warning, auctioning off their property, and blocking their access to bury their deceased in a place of their choosing, instead requiring them to use a mass grave site.

In its 2021 Report to Congress on International Religious Freedom, the United States Department of State reported that government officials continue to disseminate anti-Baha'i messaging using both traditional and social media. Further, the community is so stigmatized that private sector employers often refuse to hire those of the Baha'i or dismiss them from their jobs.

Today, I call on my House colleagues to stand with Martin Gorji and every member of the Baha'i community in Iran. I call on the Iranian government to immediately release not only Mr. Gorji, but every prisoner of conscience in Iran who is incarcerated simply for their beliefs. It is time to end this egregious repression of religious minorities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the United States Colored Troops Congressional Gold Medal Act, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War. Approximately 200,000 African American men served in the Union Army and 19,000 African American men served in the Union Navy. I am proud to present this overdue expression of our national appreciation for these remarkable individuals. Senator CORY BOOKER has introduced the companion bill.

Since the colonial era, African Americans have served the United States in times of war. While African American men served in the Navy since its establishment, there was resistance to enlisting them to take up arms for the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. It was not until January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, that the Union Army was ordered to receive African American men. On May 22, 1863, the United States War Department issued General Order Number 143, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops for the recruitment and organization of regiments of the Union Army composed of African American men, called the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Leaders such as Frederick Douglass encouraged African Americans to enlist to advance the cause of citizenship: "Once let the [B]lack man get upon his person the brass letter, 'U.S.', let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on [E]arth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship," wrote Douglass.

African American sailors constituted a significant segment of the Union Navy, making up 20 percent of the Navy's total enlisted force. Although there were rank restrictions on African Americans in the Navy before the Civil War, this policy changed after the establishment of the USCT, when the Union Navy started to compete with the Union Army for

enlistment of African Americans. Yet, in practice, most African Americans could not advance beyond the lowest ranks of "boy" and "landsmen." In the Union Army, the USCT fought at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana; in Petersburg, Virginia; and in Nashville, Tennessee, among other sites. The USCT at first were paid less, were given used uniforms and poor equipment and could never become officers. Many USCT were assigned as guards on fortifications throughout the Union, including the Defenses of Washington, which, by 1865, was one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world. During the Civil War, African American women were not allowed to formally enlist as soldiers or sailors, though they served as nurses, cooks, spies and scouts for the Union Army and the Union Navy.

For generations after the Civil War, the contributions of the African Americans who served with Union forces were excluded from historical memory. Not until Public Law No. 102-412, which I sponsored and which authorized the establishment of a memorial on federal land to honor African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, were they officially commemorated. The African American Civil War Memorial, located in the District of Columbia, features a bronze statue of soldiers, an African American sailor and family, and is surrounded by The Wall of Freedom, which lists the names of the members of the USCT.

Patriots and heroes who rose in service to a nation that would not fully recognize them, the African Americans who served the Union during the Civil War deserve our recognition for their contributions to the grant of emancipation and citizenship for nearly 4 million enslaved people and to the preservation of the Union.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BANK OF ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th Anniversary of First Bank of Alabama.

The City of Talladega was incorporated in 1835 and as it began to grow and thrive, Major James Isbell opened a banking business in 1848. Through the Civil War and reconstruction, the bank stayed open and in 1893 applied for and received a National Bank Charter. The name of the bank was officially changed to The Isbell National Bank of Talladega.

In 1963, after almost 100 years in the "old bank" building, Isbell National Bank moved to a new location on North Street East.

In 1968, the Talladega Superspeedway officially opened. The following year, the bank opened a full service branch in Lincoln, Alabama. In 1988, another branch was opened in Munford, Alabama.

In 2015, The First National Bank of Talladega Board of Directors voted to make the bank a state-chartered bank and adopt the new name, First Bank of Alabama. In 2017, First Bank acquired Bank of Wedowee and ex-

panded their presence into Randolph County. The following year, First Bank opened their seventh office in Clay County and in 2020 an office in Calhoun County.

In 2021, SouthFirst acquisition was finalized, and the bank added 2 more offices in Sylacauga and expanded into Chilton County. In 2022, two offices were added in Cleburne County.

On February 14, 2023, the Annual Shareholder meeting will be held at the Talladega office to celebrate the anniversary of the bank. First Bank is Alabama's oldest, continuously operated bank in the State of Alabama, third oldest in the Southeast and 36th oldest in the country. The bank is led by Talladega native, J. Chad Jones, the bank's 13th President and CEO.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for my friends at First Bank of Alabama and wishing them a happy 175th anniversary.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 26 DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE REVISED CRIMINAL CODE ACT OF 2022

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 26 a resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

This resolution is not only a brazen and misguided measure seeking to uphold decades of racially systemic policies of criminal injustice, it is an insulting attempt to trample on the rights and the will of the people in the District of Columbia.

By subjecting thousands of Black residents of Washington D.C. to criminalization and incarceration, the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 was the first comprehensive revision of the D.C. code since the year 1901, something that should've been revised long before.

However, in contrast to the majority of other states, D.C. did not update its criminal statutes throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

As a result of the antiquated legislation, which had been in place for decades, the human rights and freedoms of Washingtonians has been compromised, resulting in D.C. having one of the highest imprisonment rates in the nation, whereby Black males account for more than 95 percent of those who are behind bars.

The 2022 revision was a necessary push forward, and for the Republicans within this congress to attempt to undo these revisions, shows the true opinion and intentions of the party.

The revisions helped to correct many of the faults that the District of Columbia continuously ran into with the district itself making the necessary corrections with the support of the public.

The D.C. Criminal Code Reform Commission was formed by the D.C. Council to revise the statutes to guarantee that the revisions of offenses and punishments are precise, consistent, reasonable, and constitutional.

The District of Columbia Public Defender Service, the District of Columbia Attorney General, legal professionals, and the general public were among the sources of input that the Commission consulted.

Members of Congress should not use their own policy judgment to replace that of the elected officials within D.C.

Prior to these revisions simple assault carried a sentence of less than six months in prison, while the threat of simple assault carried a 20-year sentence.

Possession of self-defense spray and possession of a fully automatic machine gun carried the same maximum penalty of one year.

Some offenses can be traced back to the District's Black Codes and Slave Codes and others that were introduced by segregationists from states outside D.C.

The almost 700,000 individuals who live in Washington, D.C., are capable of self-government and through the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, proved themselves as such.

Congress is not judge, jury, and executioner and should not overstep its place within Washington, D.C.

HONORING SHERIFF GARY DENNIS TINDEL

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life, career and the memory of former Yuba County Sheriff Gary Dennis Tindel. During his nearly 30-year career at the Yuba County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Tindel worked at all levels, starting in the County jail and working his way to be elected Sheriff. His moral character and strong work ethic set him apart from others. Most importantly, Sheriff Tindel was a family man; setting a great example for his children and grandchildren to follow. His public service commitment was to put community and service before self.

Gary was born on October 24, 1947, to parents Marvin and Antonette Tindel in Marysville, California. He was a loving brother to his two siblings, and in those early years he was often seen in his Dad's welding machine shop and neighborhood store, Tindel's Market. He also attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church. His early learning of faith, along with his parents' love and strong moral code, set him on his path of public service.

Gary graduated Marysville High School in 1965, attending college first at UC Davis for a short time, then transferring to CSU Chico where he graduated with a degree in Engineering. Upon graduation, Gary sought a public service career in law enforcement, joining the Yuba County Sheriff's Department in 1971. He also attended the Butte College Police Academy. Gary was introduced to Irene Chesini in 1973, and were married in 1975. By 1979, they had three children: Josh, Michelle, and Alice. Gary would also earn a master's degree in Criminal Justice from CSU Sacramento in 1980, while continuing to climb up the ranks in the Yuba County Sheriff's Office.

After many years of dedicated work, Gary was elected Sheriff in 1990 and would go on to serve two terms as Sheriff. Additionally, he

taught law enforcement classes at Butte College, and was active in both the California State Sheriffs' Association and California State Coroners Association. Gary would go on to work for the Marin County Coroner's office as the Assistant Coroner for about 10 years. During that time, he continued to stay involved with the California State Coroners Association, even serving as President for four years. Upon his retirement, he moved back to Yuba City to enjoy time being a grandparent.

Gary continued to serve his community, church, family, and friends in retirement. As an active member of the Kiwanis Club, he helped with local little leagues and Boy Scouts. He coordinated many fundraising dinners for many causes. He also enjoyed taking family vacations and spending time in Lake Tahoe with his family. Gary held another deep passion for fishing.

Gary will be missed by many friends and family. From his outstanding public service career to his volunteerism; Gary's influence will be felt for a very long time. Gary is survived by his wife Irene, his children Josh, Michelle, and Alicia, and his seven grandchildren. Sheriff Tindel was a true friend to many. I thank him for his service to the people of the North State. May he rest in eternal peace. God Bless.

H.R. 185—TO TERMINATE THE REQUIREMENT IMPOSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR PROOF OF COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR FOREIGN TRAVELERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 185, to terminate the requirement imposed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers.

H.R. 185 is hasty attempt to reverse the order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention without any proper planning or preparation.

The Amended Order Implementing Presidential Proclamation on Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic was first published on April 7, 2022, and was implemented to save lives.

The CDS order imposes necessary restrictions on the entry of noncitizens into the United States by air travel unless they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or otherwise attest that they will take public health measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Similar restrictions have been implemented and enforced worldwide, and countries like Thailand have had to reimplement such restrictions after lifting them.

Now is not the time to roll back protections, only to be in a place where we will need to reimpose more onerous and unwanted lockdowns and shutdowns across the country.

Yet, H.R. 185 would nullify any successor or subsequent orders that require foreign persons traveling by air to show proof of a

COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of entry, as well as prohibit the use of federal funds to administer or enforce such a requirement.

Mr. Speaker, the wellbeing of the American People should hold the utmost importance and any act against their health and wellbeing should be strongly condemned.

Since March 2020, life in Houston—like most of the world—has been upended.

Houston, Texas is the 4th largest city in the country and is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse cities in the United States.

In addition to Houston being a culturally diverse city and home to international students, residents, and families from all over the world, Houston also serves as an international hub for millions of people all over the world who travel to my city every year for both leisure and business.

According to the Houston First Corporation, a record 22.3 million people from around the world visited Houston in 2018.

Notably, the 2023 Houston Rodeo season, scheduled for Feb. 28–March 19, is the largest rodeo in the world and contributes significantly to our city's economy. In 2022, this event attracted over 2.4 million international travelers from around the world.

Despite the senseless and disingenuous politicization of the COVID-19 vaccine, it has and continues to save countless lives—particularly in my home state and internationally rich travel hub of Houston, Texas.

In Houston, specifically Harris County, there have been 1,058,476 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 7,839 active cases, 1,041,939 recovered, and 8,589 deaths. Furthermore, Texas as a state has recorded 8.24 million cases and 93,366 deaths.

In the United States, there have been 102 million confirmed cases and 1.11 million deaths.

And across the globe, there have been 671 million confirmed cases and 6.83 million deaths.

These statistics serve as a harrowing reminder of the gravity of this epidemic and the caution we should be taking in ensuring preventative responses and remaining vigilant against the spread of COVID-19.

Rolling back critical vaccination policies put in place to protect Americans through hasty measures such as H.R. 185, undermines the national mission and unified efforts nationwide to prevent future cases infiltrating our communities.

While progress has certainly been made in protecting Americans from this deadly virus, we cannot stand for the erosion of such progress through ill-conceived and politicized measures.

As we continue to make strides to prevent and eradicate current and future variants plaguing our cities, states, nation, and world, let it be known that H.R. 185 would only serve to disregard the health and well-being of all Americans, foolishly jeopardizing our lives and the ongoing fight to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Instead of halting vital funding and vaccine policies for international travelers, without a plan or forethought of the disastrous impact that will inevitably result, it is imperative that we stand together in planning and preparing for smart policy shifts that will allow our country to effectively and safely ease back into some sense of normalcy.

Anything less is an abdication of our governmental duties and an insult and danger to the welfare of all those we are sworn to serve.

With strong opposition to this bill, I urge my Republican colleagues to step back and actually work with us to lay forward common sense implementations of care and safety for our fellow Americans.

OPPOSITION OF H.J. RES. 24—DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE LOCAL RESIDENT VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 24—Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

H.J. Res. 24 will overturn the Local Resident Voting Act of 2022, a measure passed by will of the people in the District of Columbia Council.

This overreaching resolution seeks to overturn the will of Washington DC people, who voted to support the rights of noncitizens who fulfill residency and other requirements to vote in district local elections under the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022.

Let the record be clear, Mr. Speaker, the United States Constitution does not forbid noncitizens from casting their vote in local, state, or federal elections.

At least 15 cities currently allow non-citizens to cast ballots in local elections.

While voting in federal elections was made illegal for noncitizens in 1996, the legal voting of noncitizens in American elections has a long history in this nation.

Noncitizens were occasionally permitted to cast ballots in local, state, and federal elections in 40 states from the time of the nation's inception until 1926.

During the early years, the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801 granted Congress sole power over the district's boundaries, depriving its citizens of the voting privileges they had previously enjoyed as residents of Maryland and Virginia.

Due to its treatment as a U.S. territory rather than a state, the District of Columbia has no voting representation in Congress and is certainly not given its fair amount of federal funding—despite the fact that Washington DC residents pay more federal taxes per person than citizens of any other state, and more than residents of 22 states combined.

It is no secret that when politicians seek to suppress voting rights, the feared component of increased racial political power rears its ugly head in driving and motivating shifts in laws that will eliminate or stunt the political growth of minority populations in America.

As we stand here today, marking the first week of Black History Month, we must acknowledge that we are standing in a building built by the hands of slaves, and we are standing in a city that is not only one of the most diverse cities in the country, but is also home to one of the largest Black populations—yes, Washington, DC—our nation's capital.

The underrepresentation of Blacks and minorities in our nation's capital and in our national democratic systems is a shameful stain on our morals and values as Americans.

We must put an end to current and historical voter suppression and we must stop pushing oppressive and systemically racist policies if we are ever to truly be a nation united by our democratic pillars and principles.

The nearly 700,000 D.C. residents, a majority of whom are Black and Brown, are worthy and capable of self-government.

And Congress, which is not accountable to D.C. residents, should not interfere with legislation duly enacted by the duly elected D.C. government.

Members of Congress should not substitute their policy judgment for the judgment of D.C.'s elected officials.

Quite simply, Congress should keep its hands off D.C.

The legislative history and merits of the two bills enacted by D.C. that are the subject of the disapproval resolutions—the Revised Criminal Code Act and the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act—should be irrelevant to the consideration of these disapproval resolutions, since there is never justification for Congress nullifying legislation enacted by D.C.

That being said, we need to set the record straight on these two bills enacted by D.C.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, which was passed by Congress, D.C.'s legislature, the 13-member D.C. Council, is required to pass legislation twice, with at least 13 intervening days between each vote, to enact legislation.

Legislation passed by the Council and signed by the D.C. mayor (or with a veto override or without the mayor's signature) is transmitted to Congress for a review period.

The legislation takes effect at the expiration of a review period, unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period.

And yet, the House did not hold a hearing or markup on either disapproval resolution.

This resolution cannot stand as a serious policy measure to be respected on the floors of this chamber, and must be opposed.